Serial Number: 09/734,721

Group Art Unit: 2874

REMARKS

By the present amendment, new claim 27 has been added.

Support for the new claim is found in the original specification, in particular on page 25, first and second full paragraphs.

REQUEST FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue, Applicant respectfully request a personal interview with the Examiner, if possible before issuance of a first office action. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

Nicolas E. Seckel

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 44,373

Atty. Docket No. 020530

Suite 1000

1725 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

Tel: (202) 659-2930

Fax: (202) 887-0357

NES:rep